

**No. 5-2007 MONTHLY PACIFIC ENSO DISCUSSION FOR MICRONESIA  
AND AMERICAN SAMOA**

**May 2007**

The Pacific ENSO Applications Center (PEAC) disseminated the second quarter 2007 newsletter (refer to <http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/MET/Enso.html>). The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) stated the following in its May 10, 2007 *ENSO Diagnostic Discussion* (refer to <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>): “A transition from ENSO-neutral to La Niña conditions is possible during the next 2-3 months.” In addition, the CPC noted: “The pattern of anomalous sea surface temperatures (SSTs) during April 2007 was consistent with ENSO-neutral conditions in the tropical Pacific, with average to slightly below average SSTs extending from the date line to the west coast of South America.” The CPC also noted: The upper ocean heat content (average temperature departures in the upper 300 m of the ocean) remained below average across the central and east-central equatorial Pacific, with temperatures at thermocline depth generally 2°-5°C below average.” Regional observations indicated stronger than normal trade winds in the central equatorial Pacific and a westward shift in equatorial cloudiness. The CPC concludes that: “Collectively, these atmospheric and oceanic conditions continue to indicate the possibility that La Niña conditions will develop over the next 2-3 months.”

Most of the latest climate forecast models predict a continued pattern of below-average equatorial SSTs during the next several months. Climate models generally show decreased skill in their predictions during the March-May timeframe. CPC states that: “Historically, the next couple of months are a critical time period for the possible emergence of La Niña.”

The El Niño-related drought in the western North Pacific ended in late March rather abruptly. Conditions in the region now exhibit an ENSO-neutral pattern. Rainfall has returned to normal over most areas, including the Mariana Islands and the Marshall Islands. Palau may be a little drier than normal for another month or so. American Samoa will not likely see any additional tropical cyclone activity this season, and should experience somewhat less than normal rainfall as it moves into its dry season.

The Tropical Upper Tropospheric Trough (TUTT) has become well-entrenched north of the Marshall Islands, and it now looks like rainfall is back to normal. Strict water conservation is likely no longer necessary for the island nation. At this time, tropical cyclone activity should be near normal for the western North Pacific, with the greatest risk of typhoons occurring in Chuuk State, Yap State, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. If La Niña conditions do develop, this would shift typhoon development to the west, increasing the risk to Palau.

PREPARED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
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